

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 12 of the as-filed application with the following amended paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a thermostable and enzymatically active truncated fragment derived from native full length *Bacillus Stearothermophilus* DNA polymerase ("*Bst* large fragment") having reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions. ~~Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5, ATCC number 12980,~~ A *Bst* strain (ATCC catalog number 12016) was obtained from the American Type Culture collection, Rockville, MD. In other embodiments, a *Bst* strain (ATCC catalog number 12980 may also be used. Using procedures well known in the art, a genomic library was prepared from said strain that led to the identification of a clone that expressed the full-length *Bst* DNA polymerase. The full-length protein may be purified according to any number of protocols known in the art (see e.g., Ye, S.Y. and Hong, G.F., *Scientia Sinica*, 30: 503 (1987) and U.S. Pat. No. 5,874,282, col. 11, lines 3-51.)--